

State of California
The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Wildlife Programs Branch

2007 Annual Bear Take Report

Summary:

In contrast to the 2006 black bear hunting season which ran its entirety that year, the 2007 black bear hunting season closed early-on December 18, 2007 when the DFG received notification that 1,700 black bears had been harvested. The early closure is in accordance with the regulation change that increased the tag quota from 1,500 to 1,700 bears harvested. The DFG's License and Revenue Branch reported a total of 25,087 bear tags sold in 2007, the highest number of tags sold since 1999. The 25,087 tags sold included 24,839 resident tags and 248 non-resident tags. Non-resident tag sales increased by .3% over last years reported sales. In total, 1,861 black bears were reported taken this year and overall hunter success was 7.4%, a slight decrease of .2% when compared against last years success rate of 7.6%.

The success rates for particular hunting methods are as follows: hunters using trailing hounds were most successful, accounting for 47% of the total take reported-an increase of more than one percent over last year. The second-highest method of success arose from hunters who reported taking a bear while deer hunting; 31% of the total harvest represents a minor decrease of 6% from last year's totals. Archery hunters reported taking 8% of the total harvest, illustrating an increase of nearly 1% above last year's rate of 7%.

On average, successful hunters spent 4 days in the field and 21% of these hunters took a bear on private land. This percentage demonstrates an upward trend as it is nearly 1% higher than last year's reported success rate. Unsuccessful hunters spent more time hunting and averaged a total of eight days attempting to harvest a bear, a figure consistent with last year's report.

General bear season opened concurrently with general deer season in the A, B, C, D, X8, X9A, X9B, X10 and X12 deer hunting zones. In the remaining deer hunting X zones, bear season commenced October 13, 2007. During the general deer season hunters were limited to one dog per hunter.